



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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Statement of Rep. Bennie G. Thompson Decrying Norwood Amendment to the Homeland Security Authorization Bill that Forces Local Police to Handle Immigration Enforcement Duties

Washington—"This is a horrible amendment that forces state and local law enforcement agents—who are already extremely underfunded—to act as INS agents. State and local police are already authorized and trained to notify federal law enforcement officials who are highly qualified and fully trained to handle foreign nationals in their custody who have committed a criminal act.

"Forcing untrained and over-burdened local law enforcement officials to become experts in immigration law amounts to the federal government, which has the responsibility for immigration issues, unfairly passing the buck. We should not pass legislation that would allow a police officer to put a person on the next plane leaving the U.S. without allowing him or her to go through the appropriate channels at the Department of Homeland Security."